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Accused Spy Linked To Poland Convicted

Los Angeles Times

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LOS ANGELES, Nov. 16—A man depicted by the government as a cunning Polish intelligence officer was convicted today of conspiring to have sensitive U.S. defense information passed to Poland.

A Los Angeles federal court jury deliberated two days before returning the verdict against Marian W. Zacharski, 30, who could be sent to prison for life when he is sentenced Dec. 14.

Zacharski, former West Coast representative of the Polish American Machinery Corp., was found guilty of conspiring with a Hughes Aircraft Co. radar engineer to have film of national defense documents delivered to Polish agents at clandestine meetings in Europe.

The government's case rested largely on the testimony of William Holden Bell, 61, a former Hughes engineer who met Zacharski in 1977 while they were neighbors at a Southern California apartment complex.

Bell, who has pleaded guilty to espionage, testified that he was financially strapped and agreed to take documents from Hughes for gold and cash. He said that he was paid about \$95,000 for various information, some of it secret, dealing with a sophisticated antitank weapon, a highly advanced radar system and other military hardware.

After the government called 48 witnesses, defense attorney Edward M. Stadum rested his case without a word of testimony. He said in final argument that Bell offered to cooperate in hopes it would lighten his sentence and that his testimony was unworthy of belief. Stadum said the verdict would be appealed.